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Leptospirosis in a Steer

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CLINICAL MEDICINE

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Leptospirosis in a Steer. On Jan. 15, 1953, a Hereford steer, seven months old, was admitted to Stange Memorial Clinic with a history of anorexia, of losing weight rapidly, of standing with the tongue out, and of getting much worse two days previously.

Examination on arrival revealed a temperature of 104.4°F., coughing, bronchial rales, and emaciation. A tentative diagnosis of Pasteurellosis was made and the animal was given 0.5 gm. of streptomycin and 1,000,000 units of procaine penicillin in oil intramuscularly. On January 16, the temperature was 105°F. and there was no appreciable change in the animal's condition. Previous treatment was repeated. On the following day the cough was more frequent and severe, the temperature was 104.5°F. and the patient more depressed. The penicillin and streptomycin therapy were repeated; in addition, 33.2 gm. of sulfathiazole was administered orally.

On January 18, the temperature was 102°F., the cough was much worse, there was a marked dyspnea and the animal was very depressed. The treatment of penicillin, streptomycin and sulfathiazole was repeated. By the next day, the temperature had dropped to 100.8°F., and there was much nasal exudate. A blood transfusion of 250 cc. whole citrated blood was given, but the patient died that afternoon.

On necropsy, petechial, ecchymotic, and diffuse hemorrhages were found throughout the body. These hemorrhages were not sharply delimited, but were "fuzzy" along the borders. Also, hematuria, blood

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tinged cerebrospinal fluid, and hemorrhagic lymphadenitis were present along with extensive pneumonia and interstitial edema of the lungs. A dark field examination of urine, renal medullary scrapings and cerebrospinal fluid were made; *Leptospira* organisms were identified. Blood agar culture of kidneys, heart, spleen and lung revealed no bacterial growth. It is probable that the pneumonia and leptospirosis were separate entities and that the combination of the two caused the rapid decline.

Jack Hill, '53